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A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945

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Note: The exact words from the poem are highlighted in bold letters.

Q. 1: Describe the morning in the poem A Doctor's Journal Entry.

Ans. 1: [It was a calm, beautiful and warm morning/ the author half clad (partially dressed) gazed (looked) out at the shimmering (Quivering and glistening) leaves and their shadows].

Q. 2: How is the word stretched used in the poem?

Ans. 2: [The morning stretched, warm beautiful and calm (the warmth and calm of the morning extended across the city). The Author half clad stretches out to relax his muscles (Sprawling)]

Q.3: Describe what the author was doing on that fateful morning?

Ans. 3: The Doctor lay sprawled out (stretched out/ lie stretched out/lie spread out) in his drawers and undershirt (undergarments). He gazed out at the shimmering leaves and their shadows. He was suddenly startled by a strong flash of light.

Q. 4: What startled the Doctor? How did he react? [**Alternate question-** Describe the way the poem describes the explosion.]

Ans. 4: A strong flash of light followed by another startled the doctor. He saw the old stone lantern brightly lit. The Doctor debated the cause of the flash in his mind. He wondered whether it was magnesium flares (flares-a burst of bright light of unknown origin that can dazzle vision) that usually appear as a burst of bright light.

Q. 5: How was the calm of that beautiful fateful morning shattered?

Ans. 5: The Author was startled by a burst of bright light that he thought was a magnesium flare. While he debated the cause of the dazzling bright flash of light, the **roof** and the **walls** around him **collapsed** (disintegrated). **Dust swirled** around him and there was **debris** everywhere in the garden. Strangely enough (**weird**) his **drawers and undershirt** (undergarments) **disappeared**. It seemed that the world had **collapsed** (disintegrated) into **timber** and **debris** (wreckage/ rubble/ fragments and pieces).

Q. 6: What made the Doctor realize that he was gravely injured? How did he instinctively react? [**Alternate question -**Describe the physical injuries the narrator suffered.]

Ans. 6: The Author realized that a **splinter jutt**ed from his **mangled thigh**. His right side bled and his cheek was torn. He **dislodged** and **detached** a piece of glass that had pierced him. **Blood gushed** out from an **artery in his neck**.

Q. 7: What emotions did they have to deal with on account of his immediate physical injuries?

Ans. 7: The Doctor was **alarmed** and **called out (shouted)** for his wife 'Where are you, Yecko-san'? He was **scared** for his **life** and was **panic stricken**. **Holding her elbow**, he reassured his wife that they **would be fine** and urged her to **get out** of their ruined house **quickly** for safety. They **stumbled** into the street. All the while (**all the time**) he **kept wondering** what had brought about (caused) this disaster (**what had come to pass**).

Q. 8: What injuries did his wife sustain?

Ans. 8: His wife Yecko-san emerged pale, blood stain and frightened. The Doctor held his wife's elbow, told her that they would be fine and quickly led her onto the street. She was not as gravely injured as her husband and had to **go on ahead** towards the **hospital** leaving her husband behind.

Q. 9: What emotions are brought out in this poem? [**Alternate question-** What emotions did the Doctor, his wife and the others injured have to deal with? Describe the emotional agony brought out in the poem?]

Ans. 9: [Alarmed/ wondering/ scared/ panic stricken/ frightened/ gasped out/ afraid/ dawned on us/ should help my staff too/ thirst seized me/ I felt no shame/ this thought disturbed me/ soldier standing silently/ rebelled/ in our distress/ what choice had we /she did not wish to/ dreadful loneliness/ my mind ran at a high speed/ shuffled in a blank parade/ dismayed/ marred with suffering/ silence was common/ no cries of anguish]

Q. 10: Describe the physical agony brought in the poem.

Ans. 10: A splintered jutt from my mangle thigh/ my right side bled/ my right cheek was torn/ dislodged, detached a piece of glass/ stumbling to the street/ pale blood stain and frightened/ tripped/ gate had crushed him/ breath was short/ thirst seized me/ my strength seemed to revive/ I was still naked/ my legs stiff with dried blood, rebelled/ my body crept behind/ the friction of their burns caused so much pain/ they feared to chafe flesh against flesh again/ marred with suffering.

Q. 11: What sentences reveal that the Doctor was in a **state of shock** and was **constantly processing** all the information that he obtained from what he saw?

Ans. 11: While I debated it/ all the time wondering what had come to pass/ it dawned on us we must Get to a hospital, we needed aid/ my mind ran at a high speed but my

body crept behind/ it took some time for me to understand/ and now the thought arouse that some strange thing had stripped us of our clothes.

Q. 12: What did the narrator trip over? [2] How does he react? [1] What does this tell us about his character? [1] What else substantiates this nature in the character of the Doctor? [2]

Ans. 12: The narrator led his wife quickly out of their house on to the street. As they stumbled on to the street making their way through the collapsed timber and debris, they fell, tripped by something below their feet. The Doctor gasped out when he realized that they had tripped over someone's head. He apologized by saying 'Excuse me, please excuse me' but soon realized that the man was dead. A gate had crushed him.

This tells us that the Doctor was a caring and polite individual. The fact that he calls for his wife, holds her by her elbow and reassures her that they would be fine is further proof of his caring nature. The Doctor wishes to help his hospital staff treat the injured though he is hurt which further substantiates the fact that he is a kind and caring individual.

Q. 13: What two initial observations on the street alert us to the extent of the destruction? What was their reaction?

Ans. 13: The Doctor and his wife tripped over a head as they stumbled on to the street. He quickly realized that the man was dead as a gate had crushed him. They were both frightened.

A house stood before the couple on the street. It tilted, swayed, toppled and crashed. Fire sprang up as the house collapsed and the dust [fine debris] was spread by the wind.

Q. 14: What realization did they come to at this point (Collapse of the house)?

Ans. 14: It dawned on the Doctor and his wife that they should get to a hospital as quickly as possible. They realized that they were both gravely injured and **needed aid**. The Doctor also wanted to **help his staff** treat the injured though he realized he was badly injured (**hurt as I was**) and was not in a position to help them (**to do much good**).

Q. 15: What physical challenges does the Doctor face at this point (Collapse of the house)?

Ans. 15: At first his **legs give way** and the Doctor sat on the ground. Shortly after **thirst seized him** (he felt extremely thirsty) but could not find any water. He was **short of breath** but slowly (**bit by bit**) regained (**revived**) his strength. After sometime he finally (**at length**) **got up**.

Q. 16: What thought now disturbed the Doctor?

Ans. 16: The Doctor was physically drained (exhausted) on account of his injuries and rested for a while on the ground. He finally **got up** but realized that he was **still naked**. He **felt no shame** though this thought **disturbed** him a bit (**somewhat**).

Q. 17: How did the soldier help the Doctor?

Ans. 17: The Doctor **came upon** (encountered) a soldier who was **standing silently**. The soldier gave a **towel** that was **around his neck** to the Doctor to cover his nakedness.

Q. 18: What critical decision did the couple take after receiving help from the soldier?

Ans. 18: The Doctor's legs were **stiff with dried blood**. They (the legs) refused (**rebelled**) to carry him any further. The Doctor was more gravely injured than his wife. At this point the Doctor tells his wife Yecko-san that she must carry on and head towards the hospital (**she must go on ahead**). She **did not wish to leave** the Doctor behind but **had no choice** given their state of **distress** and on account of the need for urgent medical **aid** and attention.

After she left (**gone**) him, the Doctor was **overcome** with a **dreadful loneliness**. This figure of speech is a personification.

Q. 19: Which sentence in the poem tells us that the Doctor was mentally alert but physically weak?

Ans. 19: My mind ran at a high speed, but my body crept behind. The Doctor's body was weak, exhausted and his legs failed him yet his mind was agile and was constantly processing information from what he saw.

Q. 20: What observation of the narrator tells us that the event was catastrophic?

Ans. 20: The Doctor saw '**the shadowy forms of people**' who **shuffled** (to drag along slowly, confused and in disarray, changing order) in **blank** (shocked, stunned, overwhelmed, and speechless/ dumb founded) **parade** (procession in a formal group or line) towards the hospital. Some of them were **like ghosts, some scare crows, all wordless and dumb**. They walked with arms stretched straight out, shoulder to dangling hand. The **friction** of their **burns** caused them **much** (tremendous/ unbearable) **pain**. The words **shadowy forms, like ghosts** and **scare crows**, all convey a sense of intense physical mutilation and disfigurement. The words shuffled/ blank parade/ wordless and dumb all convey a sense of shock, bewilderment and being overwhelmed.

Q. 21: What sentences in the poem tell us that everyone were in a state of shock?

Ans. 21: Refer answer 11 for the reactions of the Doctor and his wife. [**Additional points for the others**-soldier standing silently/ shadowy forms of people/ shuffled in blank parade/ all were wordless, dumb/ were ghosts, some scare crows/arm stretched out/

but she made no sound/ silence was common to all/ no cries of anguish, or a single word]

Q. 22: How many times does the topic of a hospital come up in the story? List out the references to the hospital. What does this convey?

Ans. 22: The topic about the hospital is brought out twice in the poem.

The hospital is the focus of every one's attention. This tells us that a catastrophic event had occurred and every one required medical aid. It dawned on the Doctor that he and his wife must get to a hospital as they needed aid because they were badly injured.

People in large numbers wordless and dumb founded all moved towards the hospital. It conveys a sense of desperation, despair, suffering, and helplessness.

Q. 23: What scenes make the Doctor finally realize that something strange had happened? How did he react to each scene?

Ans. 23: The Doctor initially sees a large number of burnt people, **wordless** and **dumb** founded making their way in **blank parade** towards the hospital. It takes him a while (**took some time**) to understand that the friction of their burns caused them **much pain**. He next sees a woman and child in his path. Both were naked. He is **dismayed** by what he sees. At first he thinks they are naked because they have returned from a **bath**. He then **comes across a naked man** and now realizes that **something strange** has **stripped all of them** of their clothes.

He finally sees the face of an old woman on the ground that was marred (blighted) with suffering. Yet she made **no sound**.

Silence was common to all of them and there were no cries of anguish despite the pain and grievous nature of the injuries that they had suffered conveying a sense of deep psychological shock.

Q. 24: State the theme of the poem. [For the students to answer]

Ans. 24: The horror of war and mass destruction caused by an atom bomb/ nuclear war and its effects on humanity/ anti-war theme/ the horrors suffered by humanity from weapons of mass destruction/ the physical, emotional, and psychological trauma suffered by the victims of Hiroshima/ the need for the U.S to apologise for its actions in Hiroshima/ the futility of war/ the ego clash between nations.